

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 1-11, 13, 15-19, and 21-38, 40, and 41 will be pending, claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 38, and 40 being independent.

### **Summary of the Office Action**

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for not illustrating a base having at least two holes extending through a thickness thereof, as recited in claims 13, 38, and 40.

Claim 1 is objected to for a grammatical/editorial error, *i.e.*, "extending extend", in line 6.

Claims 35-42 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement thereof.

Claims 6, 38, 39, and 41 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second and sixth paragraphs, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16-18, 23-25, 28-30, and 35-42 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KELLER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,893, hereinafter "KELLER") in view of VITALI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,380,031, hereinafter "VITALI").

Claims 5, 8, 11, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 31-34 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

### **Response to the Office Action**

#### **A. Withdrawal of Objection to Drawings Under 37 CFR §1.83(a)**

For the purpose of advancing prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have chosen to amend independent claims 13, 38, and 40 to include the subject matter of dependent claims 14, 39, and 42, respectively, whereby the specified holes are located in the disk.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested, inasmuch as the drawings show every feature of the invention in claims 13, 38, and 40 as amended.

Applicants note that claim 14 had included the subject matter giving rise to the objection at the time of the previous rejection. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection, at least with regard to claim 14, was prematurely made in the final Office action to which Applicants now respond.

Therefore, in the event that this amendment were to be denied entry for any reason, Applicants request that the finality of the Office action be withdrawn for the purpose of providing Applicants an opportunity to respond to this objection differently than by the mere cancellation of claims 14, 39, and 42.

Further, Applicants note that in claims 13, 38, and 40, the disk had been recited as being a part of the base and, in that sense, the illustrated embodiments of the invention, albeit with the holes extending through the disk, also depict the holes extending through the base. In this way, therefore, Applicants submit that claims 13, 38, and 40, prior to the amendment above, are shown in the drawings.

**B. Withdrawal of Informality/Objection Regarding Claim 1**

In response to the informality noted by the Examiner, Applicants have amended claim 1 by deleting the word "extend."

In view of the amendment, withdrawal of the objection is kindly requested.

**C. Withdrawal of Rejection Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph**

Applicants request that the rejection of claims 35-42 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

As the Examiner has observed, claims 35-38 and 40 indicate that the single plate is the only plate of the assembly having the predetermined size and shape.

The Examiner also comments that "the disclosure does not distinguish the single plate from the second plate based upon size and shape." This comment is correct only in the limited

sense that the *literal text* of the specification does not distinguish the single plate from a second plate based upon size and shape.

However, compliance with the written description requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph, does not require "[t]he subject matter of the claim [to be] described literally (i.e., using the same terms or *in haec verba*) in order for the disclosure to satisfy the description requirement." See *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP), Section 2163.02, page 2100-172 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003).

The foregoing quotation is taken from *In re Smith*, 481 F.2d 910, 178 USPQ 620 (CCPA 1973), which was cited with favor in *In re Wright*, 866 F.2d 422, 9 USPQ2d 1649 (Fed. Cir. 1989), in the court's opinion reversing a rejection affirmed by the Board of Appeals, based upon an alleged failure to comply with the written description requirement of §112, first paragraph. In *Wright*, in the context of an invention directed to a method of forming images with photosensitive powder particles, the text of the original specification had not included the literal description of the powder particles being "not permanently affixed" to a support, although the phrase had been added by amendment. In finding support for the added phrase, the court relied upon a showing in a drawing of a "cleaner means" for removing powder from a drum and various parts of the text referring to powder being deposited on a support and subjecting the powder to a rupturing force and to the particles being removed from a support.

In its affirmance, the Board had been concerned that the aforementioned phrase was open to a different interpretation. The Federal Circuit, however, in reversing the Board, observed that the Board's concern (i.e., that the phrase "was open to a different interpretation") goes to the *scope* of the phrase rather than to the support for it. In fact, the Federal Circuit remarked: "We deem this to be an irrelevant inquiry."

Similarly, in *In re Smythe*, 178 USPQ 279, 285 (CCPA 1973), the court quoted from its earlier decision (*In re Reynolds*, 443 F.2d 384, 170 USPQ 94, 98 (1971)), which had quoted

with approval the following from an opinion in *Technicon Instruments Corp. v. Cole Instruments, Inc.*, 255 F.Supp 630, 150 USPQ 227 (N.D.Ill. 1966), aff'd., 385 F.2d 391, 155 USPQ 369 (7th Cir. 1967):

By disclosing in a patent application a device that inherently performs a function, operates according to a theory, or has an advantage, a patent applicant necessarily discloses that function, theory or advantage *even though he says nothing about it*. The application may later be amended to recite the function, theory or advantage without introducing prohibited new matter. (emphasis added)

As explained in MPEP, §2163.02 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003):

Under *Vas-Cath, Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563-64, 19 USPQ 1111, 1117 (Fed. Cir. 1991), to satisfy the written description requirement, an applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention .... The test for sufficiency of support ... is whether the disclosure ... 'reasonably conveys to the artisan that the inventor had possession at the time of the later claimed subject matter.'

(citations omitted)

With the foregoing as background, Applicants submit that in the instant case a determination is to be made as to whether each of the rejected claims 35-38 and 40 reasonably conveys to the artisan that the Applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time the

instant application was filed. In making such determination, as noted by the CCPA in *Smythe*, it can be taken into account that if the disputed subject matter relates to a function, theory, or advantage, an applicant can be found to have necessarily disclosed such function, theory, or advantage even though the disclosure "says nothing about it." And, further, as noted by the Federal Circuit in *Wright*, the fact that a disputed subject matter might be "open to different interpretations" goes to the *scope* of the phrase rather than to issue of compliance to the written description requirement of §112, first paragraph, and an inquiry into such interpretations is deemed an "irrelevant inquiry."

Now, the subject matter in dispute, according to the rejection, is "that the single plate is the only plate of the assembly having the predetermined size and shape." In claim 35, *e.g.*, it is specified that "said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape."

As mentioned above, the observation that "the disclosure does not distinguish the single plate from the second plate based upon size and shape" is correct only in the limited sense that the *literal text* of the specification does not distinguish the single plate from a second plate based upon size and shape.

However, as in *Smythe*, despite Applicants' specification having said "nothing about it," *i.e.*, the single plate being distinguished from a second plate based upon size and shape, Applicants had possession of the subject matter of the rejected claims.

That is, as Applicants have explained previously, the invention of the rejected claims encompasses the use of a *single* plate, *i.e.*, one and only one such plate. According to the invention, by virtue of the assembly having all of the screws extending through a *single plate*, the user can position all of the screws for mounting the retention assembly upon a sports

apparatus, such as a snowboard, in a single manipulation. As a result, the function and advantage of the invention in such mounting and adjusting of the retention assembly relate to less time consumed and a simpler positioning of the retention assembly on the board.

The observation in the rejection that "the second plate that does not have the predetermined size and shape is not supported by the original specification" is, as the Federal Circuit commented in *Wright*, "an irrelevant inquiry." Applicants' invention as recited in the rejected claims is that *there is no second plate*. Thus, the fact that there is no second plate of a particular size and shape is not beyond Applicants' disclosure of the rejected claims of their being no second plate at all. As a consequence, Applicants had possession of their being no second plate having *any* size and shape in the invention of the rejected claims.

Accordingly, because Applicants had possession of the disputed subject matter, no prohibited new matter is contained within the rejected claims and the rejected claims are in compliance with the written description requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is kindly requested.

**D. Withdrawal of Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second and Sixth Paragraphs**

Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's explanation regarding his observations concerning the means limitations appearing in claims 6, 38, and 41. Although the rejection at the outset of the rejection refers to the claims (*i.e.*, claims 6, 38, 39, and 41) being indefinite, Applicants have been unable to determine from the subsequent comments within the rejection any particular aspect of the limitations that render the claims indefinite.

Therefore, it appears that the purpose of the rejection is to provide Applicants with an opportunity to comment on the Examiner's observations, for which Applicants provide comments below.

In general, the Examiner's observations are correct. The means for retaining screws on the plate only connect the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus

if the plate is disposed beneath the base or disk (*i.e.*, when the plate, disk, *etc.*, are oriented with the base upright as in Fig. 1, for example). If the plate were to be disposed above the base or disk, the means would only retain the screws on the plate and would not connect the plate to the disk. In every case, the retaining means retains the screws to the plate, as disclosed, *e.g.*, in paragraph 0011 and claim 1, as originally filed.

In section B.3 of the remarks in Applicants' reply of August 18, 2003, Applicants mentioned that "[i]n a number of dependent claims (claims 2, 8, 15, 33, and 34, *e.g.*), Applicants call for the plate to be located on a lower portion of the disk, or in a cavity in the lower surface of the base or disk." Applicants did not indicate that the plate is disposed on the lower surface of the base or disk *only* in these claims. Nor did Applicants indicate that the plate is disposed in the lower surface of the base or disk *only* in *other* claims. The parent claims of claims 2, 8, 15, 33, and 34, however, encompass embodiments of the invention in which the plate is disposed on the lower surface of the base or disk, or in a cavity of the lower surface of the base or disk.

Because the metes and bounds of the rejected claims can be determined with reasonable precision, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

**E. Withdrawal of Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a)**

Applicants request that the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) based upon a combination of KELLER and VITALI be withdrawn.

**1. A Single Plate**

Each of Applicants' claims 1, 7, and 13 includes the limitation that the assembly of the invention includes a "single plate." Neither KELLER nor VITALI discloses a boot retaining assembly that includes a single plate.

In contrast, KELLER provides a first pair of screws 8 that extend through a pair of holes in a first plate 12 and a second pair of screws 8 that extend through a pair of holes in a second

plate. *Each of the screws 8 of KELLER's disclosed retaining apparatus do not* extend through a *single* plate. Further, VITALI provides no teaching or suggestion to supply this deficiency of KELLER.

As Applicants have explained previously, according to the invention, by virtue of having all of the screws extending through a single plate, the user can position all of the screws for mounting the retention assembly upon a sports apparatus, such as a snowboard, in a single manipulation. As a result, the mounting and adjusting operations are less time-consuming and simpler and the positioning of the retention assembly on the board is easier. Neither VITALI nor KELLER teach or suggest this.

In the rejection, KELLER is described as having "two generally rectangular plates 12" and that "[e]ach plate includes two holes 13 extending through a thickness of the plate ...."

Thus, KELLER discloses at least *two plates*, whereas in rejected claims 1, 7, and 13, Applicants claim *a single plate* and Applicants' specification clearly describes the advantage that the single plate of the rejected claims provides over the prior art, including the disclosure of KELLER.

In the section of the Office action entitled "Response to Arguments," beginning on page 9 of the Office action, arguments are presented in support of the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 13, despite Applicants' recitation of a single plate. These arguments are addressed immediately below.

**a. Ordinary Meaning of "Single"**

In the second complete paragraph of page 9 of the Office action, it is contended that "the ordinary meaning of the word 'single' is not limited to the narrow definition cited by Applicants."

That contention is wrong.



In support of the contention, the rejection relies upon a definition (no explanation is given as to the particular order of the offered rejection in the hierarchy) from a dictionary entitled *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1994, viz., "separate from others" and "distinct."

No other evidence is provided by the Examiner in support of his contention that Applicants' offered definition is "narrow" and not representative of the ordinary meaning of the word "single."

In spite of the paltry evidence provided, and in further reply to the rejection, Applicants have attached hereto the title page, the copyright page, and page 1086 of *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1988. The Examiner's definition appears on page 1086 as the *fourth* definition of the word "single."

The *first* and *second* definitions for the term "single" in that dictionary are "1. Unaccompanied by another or others : SOLE <a *single* survivor> 2.a. Consisting of one part or form <a *single* layer> <a *single* standard of quality> b. Consisting of one alone <I had a *single* thought, which was to survive."

Thus, *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, cited in support of the rejection in the Office action, supports Applicants' position.

As further evidence of Applicants' position, they offer the following definitions, *including the first definitions*, of the word "single" taken from three additional dictionaries.

In *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Ed., Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 2000, the first two definitions of the word "single" (on page 1625) are: "1. Not accompanied by another or others; solitary. 2a. Consisting of one part, aspect, or section: *a single thickness; a single serving*. b. Having the same application for all; uniform: *a single moral code for all*. c. Consisting of one in number: *She had but a single thought, which was to escape*."

In *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language*, Second Ed., William Collins Publishers, Inc., U.S.A., 1980, the first two definitions of the word "single" (on page 1694) are: "1. one only; one and no more; individual. 2. without another or others; alone; solitary."

In *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, New Deluxe Ed., Random House Value Publishing, Inc., Gramercy Books, New York, 1996, the first three definitions of the word "single" (on page 1785) are: "1. only one in number; one only; unique; sole; *a single example*. 2. of, pertaining to, or suitable for one person only; *a single room*. 3. solitary or sole; lone: *He was the single survivor*."

Excerpts from additional dictionaries can also be provided.

Applicants submit that the weight of the evidence supports Applicants' position regarding the ordinary meaning of the word "single." In contrast, the single (*i.e.*, as in one and only one) example provided in the rejection, taken from the aforementioned Riverside University dictionary, is given *without context*. That is, the meaning of the word "single" offered to support the Examiner's position, *viz.*, "separate from others" and "distinct" is believed to relate merely to a particular grammatical usage, as evidenced by the example given in definition 4a of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, *i.e.*, "4a. Separate from others; individual and distinct: *Every single child will receive a gift*."

That is, the term "single" means "separate and distinct" in the context of identifying things/people (*i.e.*, "children" in the given example) separately, rather than in a group.

**b. Applicants' Intent/Transitional Phrase**

In the third paragraph beginning on page 9 of the Office action, it is contended that "Applicants' intent in the meaning of the word 'single' is unclear" and that the fact that the word "single" in claims 1, 7, and 13 "is qualified by the broad transitional phrase 'comprising' rather

than a narrow phrase such as 'consisting of' ... suggests that 'single' is not intended to exclude the presence of additional plates."

That contention is wrong.

The transitional phrase "comprising" is used (in claim 1, for example) as follows: "the assembly further comprising a single plate ...." Clearly, the substitution of the term "consisting" in place of the term "comprising" there, in claim 1, would be incorrect. Applicants would assume that the claim, had the term "consisting" been used in that location in the claim, would have been rejected by the Examiner on a number of grounds, inasmuch as the assembly has not been disclosed as being limited merely to the plate. In fact, if the term "consisting" had been used in that location, the term "single" would be redundant/unnecessary. It is not the term "single" that is qualified by the transitional term "comprising"; instead, it is the term "assembly" that is qualified by the term "comprising."

**c. Claims 35, 36, 37 Distinguishing "Additional" Plates by Size and Shape**

Also in the third paragraph beginning on page 9 of the Office action, it is contended (beginning with the final line of page 9) that "dependent claims 35, 36, and 37 distinguish the single plate from additional plates based upon size and shape" and that [t]his claim differentiation suggests that 'single' is not intended to exclude the presence of additional plates."

That contention is wrong.

There is an alternate reason for the wording chosen in claims 35, 36, and 37. That is, had Applicants specified, in claims 35, 36, and 37, merely that "the assembly does not include a second plate," their undersigned representative has prosecuted enough applications over the years in former Examining Group 310 and in Tech Center 3600, to have anticipated a rejection such as one based upon a contention that a disk such as that labeled 20 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, *e.g.*, can be construed as a "plate" (according to an "ordinary meaning" of the term "plate"). After all, Applicants note that KELLER refers to his disk as a "fastening *plate*" (see

column 2, lines 45-46). However, the plate as described in claims 35, 36, and 37, and as supported by Applicants' disclosure, avoids such a rejection. For example, the "single" plate, such as that labeled 50 in the same embodiment, is differently sized and shaped from the disk 20.

## **2. Retaining Means in Claims 1 and 6**

The end of Applicants' claim 1 calls for "means for retaining the screws on the plate." Additionally, Applicants' claim 6 calls for "means for retaining the screws on the plate and for connecting the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus."

The rejection includes an acknowledgement that KELLER does not disclose a retaining means for retaining the screws on the plate and that a secondary teaching is required, viz., VITALI.

VITALI discloses a device for assembling an accessory, such as the base of a binding, upon a ski and, more specifically, a device that includes an arrangement by which screws are held in their holes when the base is placed on the ski.

In VITALI no slidable plate is disclosed and there is no need to move the screws in position along elongated holes relative to the base. Further, in VITALI, there is no disk having such elongated holes.

Applicants submit that it would not have been clear to one skilled in the art how either of the thin plates 12 of KELLER could be modified to incorporate the structures taught by VITALI for the purpose of holding KELLER's screws relative to the plates 12.

In addition, even if one were able to utilize the teachings of VITALI in the apparatus of KELLER, one would have screws that are held in the holes of the plates 12, but one would *not* be able to realize the objective of VITALI, viz., holding screws relative to the base as the base is placed upon the ski. That is, the plates 12 would be free to become loose relative to the fastening plate 1 upon which the plates 12 are supported.

Consequently, any suggestion for modifying KELLER's apparatus by means of the teachings of VITALI can only originate improperly with Applicants' disclosure.

On page 10 of the Office action, it is contended that "there is no need to for Vitali et al. to teach a slidable plate or movable screws since this structure is already taught by Keller et al. Vitali et al. is relied upon simply to teach the common retaining means structure in a retaining assembly of a sports apparatus."

If VITALI is relied upon simply to teach the common retaining means structure in a retaining assembly of a sports apparatus, the combination of KELLER and VITALI fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention. For example, what teaching or suggestion is provided by VITALI "to retain the screws on the plate" (paraphrased from claim 1) or "to retain the screws on the plate and to connect the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus" (paraphrased from claim 6)?"

Clearly, neither KELLER nor VITALI provides any disclosure of retaining the plate to the sports apparatus if the base is not fixed to the sports apparatus, *i.e.*, snowboard or ski, respectively.

### **3. Plate on Lower Portion of Disk in Claim 2**

In claim 2, Applicants call for the plate to be located on a lower portion of the disk. In the first complete paragraph on page 6 of the previous Office action, *i.e.*, the Office action of May 16, 2003, it had been explained that this orientation (presumably modified from that disclosed by KELLER) "represents an obvious reversal of parts."

This comment has not been repeated in the rejection of claim 2 of this final Office action. However, a comment is made in the first complete paragraph on page 9 of the final Office action, although not attributed to the rejection of any particular claim, that "[t]he lower surface of cavity 11 represents a lower portion of the disk within the scope of the claims."

If this latter statement in the remarks to Applicants' arguments is intended to bootstrap the rejection of claim 2, which does not appear to address the subject matter of claim 2, Applicants submit that the finality of the rejection is premature and, in that event, request that the finality of the rejection be withdrawn so that Applicants be given a fair opportunity to amend claim 2, if necessary, to overcome this new rejection. The rejection is not one that could have been reasonably expected without the explanation given in the final Office action.

Regardless of whether the rejection is premature or not, the lower surface of cavity 11 of KELLER is not a *lower portion of a disk*, as specified in Applicants' claim 2. First, in this regard, a "surface" is not a portion; a surface is only a two-dimensional aspect of something. Second, surface 11 is not in a lower portion of "fastening plate 1" of KELLER. Thus, in what sense, can the surface 11 of KELLER be regarded as a "lower portion" of the disk?

**F. Entry of Amendment**

Entry of the amendment above is believed proper at this time, *i.e.*, after final rejection, inasmuch as no new issues are raised, no new claims are added, and the application reduces issues for appeal, should an appeal be necessary.

That is, the informality raised in connection with claim 1 ("extending extend" changed to "extending") has been corrected, and claims 14, 39, and 42 have been canceled in conjunction with their subject matter having been incorporated into their respective independent claims.

**G. Withdrawal of Finality and Issuance of Non-Final Office Action**

As explained above, two issues are raised in the final Office action to which Applicants herewith respond which give rise to a request that finality be withdrawn and that a new non-final Office action be issued, if this reply does not result in the resolution of such issues.

First, regarding the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a), Applicants noted above that claim 14 had included the subject matter giving rise to the objection at the time of the previous rejection. Accordingly, the objection, at least with regard to the illustration of the

subject matter of claim 14, was prematurely made in the final Office action to which Applicants now respond.

Therefore, as stated above, if this amendment is denied entry, Applicants request that the finality of the Office action be withdrawn and that Applicants be issued a non-final Office action to provide Applicants with a fair opportunity to respond to the objection.

Second, as explained above, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC §103(a) appears to be based upon a new ground of rejection, albeit using the same references, KELLER and VITALI, from the previous Office action, that is, regarding KELLER, that "[t]he lower surface of cavity 11 represents a lower portion of the disk within the scope of the claims."

Therefore, as stated above, if the rejection of claim 2 is retained, upon entry of this reply, Applicants request that the finality of the Office action be withdrawn and that a non-final Office action be issued to provide Applicants with a fair opportunity to amend claim 2, or other action in response to the rejection.

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The grounds of objection and rejection advanced in the Office action have been addressed and are believed to be overcome. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the amendment and remarks above.

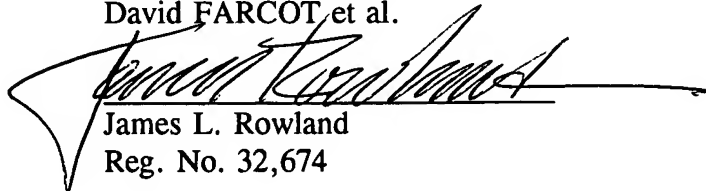
A check is enclosed for payment of claim fees. No additional fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Further, although no extension of time is believed to be necessary at this time, if it were to be found that an extension of time were necessary to render this reply timely and/or complete, Applicants request an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) in the necessary increment(s) of month(s) to render this reply timely and/or complete and the Commissioner is authorized to

charge any necessary extension of time fee under 37 CFR §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
David FARCOT et al.



James L. Rowland  
Reg. No. 32,674

February 16, 2004  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191

(703) 716-1191 (telephone)  
(703) 716-1180 (fax)

Attachments:

- page 1086 of *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1988
- page 1625 of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Ed., Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 2000
- page 1694 of *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language*, Second Ed., William Collins Publishers, Inc., U.S.A., 1980
- page 1785 of *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, New Deluxe Ed., Random House Value Publishing, Inc., Gramercy Books, New York, 1996



WEBSTER'S II  
New Riverside  
University  
Dictionary

# WEBSTER'S

## New Riverside University

### What Do People Dictionary?

Webster's II New Riverside  
not only the latest  
prepared according  
Webster—it is also  
we compiled Webster's  
five research through  
to find out what fe  
a dictionary. As a  
a number of unique  
people wanted more

### No One Does

In Webster's II, you  
no other Webster  
find that we have  
common to other  
just the newest,  
Webster's dictionary  
a sampling of words

### Word Histories

This is the feature  
users. Webster's  
history paragraphs  
development of  
language. Examples

▲ word history:  
board. It is recorded  
if the gambler's hand  
presumably he covers  
in other forms of

### Usage Guide

You'll find two  
usage notes at  
problem terms  
addition, a  
plains in detail  
confusing questions  
In the main part

all right adv. 1  
rect < Your con  
5. Without a doubt < it is a genuine  
not acceptable to write all right as the single form alright.

Words that are believed to be registered trademarks have been checked with authoritative sources. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. Words that are known to have current registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

Copyright © 1984, 1988 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Main entry under title:

Webster's II new Riverside university dictionary.

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Riverside Publishing Company. II. Title: Webster's two new Riverside university dictionary. III. Title: Webster's 2 new Riverside university dictionary.

PE1625.W244 1984 423 83-3799

ISBN: 0-395-33957-X (thumb index, trade edition)

0-395-37928-8 (high school edition)

Manufactured in the United States of America

is the maximum displacement,  $\phi$  is the initial phase or angular displacement at  $t = 0$ , and  $k$  is a constant equal to  $2\pi$  times the frequency of the oscillation.

**simple honors** *pl.n.* Three honors in trump or three aces at no-trump held by the same side in bridge.

**simple interest** *n.* Interest paid only on the original principal, not on the interest accrued.

**simple machine** *n.* MACHINE 1b.

**simple microscope** *n.* A microscope having one lens or lens system, as a magnifying glass or hand lens.

**simple-minded** (sim'pl-mind') *adj.* 1. Not sophisticated: ARTLESS. 2. Stupid; silly. 3. Mentally defective. —**sim'ple-mind'ed-ly** *adv.* —**sim'ple-mind'ed-ness** *n.*

**simple pendulum** *n.* PENDULUM 1.

**simple sentence** *n.* A sentence having no coordinate or subordinate clauses, as *The dog growled.*

**Simple Simon** *n.* [After *Simple Simon*, a character in a nursery rhyme.] A fool.

**simple sugar** *n.* A monosaccharide.

**simple-ton** (sim'pl-ton) *n.* [**< SIMPLE**.] A fool.

**simplex** (sim'pléks) *adj.* [Lat. *simplex*, simple.] Denoting a system of telegraphy in which only one message may be sent in either direction at one time.

**simplicity** (sim-plis'i-tē) *n.*, *pl. -ties*. [ME *simplicitate* < OFr. < Lat. *simplicitas* < *simplex*, simple.] 1. The quality, state, or fact of being simple. 2. Absence of luxury or showiness. 3. Absence of affectation or pretense. 4. Lack of good sense or intelligence: FOOLISHNESS.

**simplify** (sim'plif-i) *vt.* -fied, -fy-ing, -fies. [Fr. *simplifier* < Med. Lat. *simplificare*: Lat. *simplus*, simple + *facere*, to make.] To make simple or simpler. —**sim'pli-fi-ca-tion** *n.* —**sim'pli-fi'er** *n.*

**simplism** (sim'pliz-əm) *n.* [Fr. *simplisme* < OFr. *simple*, simple.] The tendency to oversimplify an issue by ignoring complexities. —**sim'plis-tic** (sim-plis'tik) *adj.* —**sim'plis-tic-ally** *adv.*

**simply** (sim'plē) *adv.* 1. In a simple way: PLAINLY. 2. Foolishly. 3. Merely: only. 4. Absolutely: altogether <simply ludicrous> 5. Frankly: candidly <You are, quite simply, incompetent>

**simply connected** *adj.* Of, being, or characterized by a mathematical surface that is divided into two separate parts by every simple closed curve within it.

**simply ordered** *adj.* Having any three mathematical elements transitively related and any two elements equal or connected by an asymmetric relationship.

**sim-u-la-cra** (sim'yə-lā'krə, -lāk'rə) *n. pl.* of SIMULACRUM.

**sim-u-la-cre** (sim'yə-lā'krə, -lāk'rə) *n.* Archaic. A simulacrum.

**sim-u-la-crum** (sim'yə-lā'krəm, -lāk'rəm) *n. pl. -la-cra* (-lā'krə, -lāk'rə). [Lat. < *simulare*, to simulate < *similis*, like.] 1. An image or representation. 2. An unreal or vague semblance.

**sim-u-lar** (sim'yə-lər, -lār) *Archaic.* —*n.* One that simulates: SIMULATOR. —*adj.* Simulated: sham.

**sim-u-late** (sim'yə-lāt) *vt.* -lat-ed, -lat-ing, -lates. [Lat. *simulare*, *simulat-* < *similis*, like.] 1. To have or take on the appearance, form, or sound of: IMITATE. 2. To make a pretense of: FEIGN <simulate an interest in a conversation> —*adj.* (-lit, -lāt). Simulated. —**sim'u-la-tive** *adj.*

**sim-u-la-tion** (sim'yə-lā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of simulating. 2. An imitation. 3. A false appearance.

**sim-u-la-tor** (sim'yə-lā'tər) *n.* One that simulates, esp. a device that generates test conditions approximating actual or operational conditions.

**sim-ul-cast** (si'məl-kāst', sim'əl-) *vt.* -cast-ed, -cast-ing, -casts. [SIMUL(TANEOUS) + (BROAD)CAST.] To broadcast simultaneously, as by FM radio and television. —**si'mul-cast'** *n.*

**sim-ul-ta-ne-ous** (si'məl-tā'nē-əs, sim'əl-) *adj.* [Lat. *simul*, at the same time + *E. -aneous*, as in *instantaneous*.] 1. Occurring, existing, or carried out at the same time. 2. Math. Collectively restricting the values of a set of variables <simultaneous equations> —**si'mul-ta-ne-ous-ly** *adv.* —**si'mul-ta-ne-ous-ness**, **si'mul-ta-ne-i-ty** (-tā-nē'i-tē, -nā'-) *n.*

**sin** (sīn) *n.* [ME *sinne* < OE *synn*.] 1. Transgression of a religious or moral law. 2. Estrangement from God as a result of breaking God's law. 3. An offense, violation, fault, or error. —*vi.* **sinned**, **sin-ning**, **sins**. 1. To violate a religious or moral law. 2. To commit an offense or violation.

**sin** (sēn, sīn) *n.* [Heb., var. of *shin*, the letter shin.] The 21st letter of the Hebrew alphabet. —See table at ALPHABET.

**sin-an-thro-pus** (sī-nān'thrō-pəs, sī-, sī'nān'thrō-pəs, sīn'ān-) *n.* [NLat. *Sinanthropus*, genus name: SINO- + *anthropus*, human being.] An extinct humanlike primate of the genus *Sinanthropus*, which includes the Peking man.

**sin-a-pism** (sīn'ə-piz-əm) *n.* [Fr. *sinapisme* < LLat. *sinapismus* < Gk. *sinapismos*, use of a mustard plaster < *sinapi*, mustard.] To apply a mustard plaster < *sinapi*, mustard.] A mustard plaster.

**since** (sīns) *adv.* [ME *sinnes*, contraction of *sithenes* < OE *sioðan*.] 1. From then until now or between then and now <left home and hasn't been there since> 2. Before now: AGO <long since forgiven> —*prep.* From a specified time in the past <has not been here since Monday> —*conj.* 1. During the time after which <They have not been back since they graduated> 2. Continuously from

the time when <They have not called since they left> 3. As a result of the fact that: INASMUCH AS <Since you're not interested, I won't tell you about it>

**sin-cere** (sīn-sir') *adj.* -cerer, -cerest. [Lat. *sincerus*.] 1. Not feigned or affected: TRUE <sincere apologies> 2. Presenting no false appearance: HONEST <a sincere believer> 3. Archaic. Pure: unadulterated. —**sin-cere-ly** *adv.* —**sin-cere-ness** *n.* —**sin-cer-i-ty** (-i-tē) *n.*

**sin-ci-pit** (sīn'sə-pət) *n. pl. sin-ci-pits* or **sin-ci-pi-ta** (sīn-sip-i-tə) [Lat. : *semi*, half + *caput*, head.] 1. The upper half of the cranium, esp. the anterior portion above and including the forehead. 2. The forehead. —**sin-ci-pi-tal** (-sīp'i-təl) *adj.*

**Sin-dhi** (sīn'dē) *n. pl. Sindhi* or **-dhis**. [Ar. *Sindi*.] 1. a. The predominantly Moslem people of Sind. b. A member of this people. 2. The Indic language of Sind. —**Sin'dhi** *adj.*

**sine** (sīn) *n.* [Med. Lat. *sinus* < Lat. *curve*.] 1. The ordinate of the endpoint of an arc of a unit circle centered at the origin of a Cartesian coordinate system, the arc being of length  $x$  and measured counterclockwise from the point (1, 0) if  $x$  is positive or clockwise if  $x$  is negative. 2. The function of an acute angle that is the ratio of the opposite side to the hypotenuse in a right triangle.

**sine-cure** (sīn'kyūr, sīn't-) *n.* [**< Med. Lat. sine cura**, without cure of souls.] 1. An ecclesiastical benefice not attached to the spiritual duties of a parish. 2. A position or office requiring little or no work but providing a salary. —**sin'e-cu-rism** *n.* —**sin'e-cu-ris-ta** *n.*

**sine curve** *n.* The graph of the equation  $y = \sin x$ . **sine die** (sīn' dī'ē, sīn'ā dē'ā') *adv.* [Lat., without a day.] Without a day specified for a future meeting: INDEFINITELY <Parliament was dismissed sine die>

**sine qua non** (sīn' kwā nōn', nōn', sīn' kwā nōn') *n.* [Lat., without which not.] An essential element.

**sin-ew** (sīn'yōb) *n.* [ME *sinewe* < OE *sinu*.] 1. A tendon. 2. Vigorous muscular strength and power. 3. *often sinews*. The source or mainstay of vitality and strength.

**sine wave** *n.* Physics. A waveform with deviation that can be expressed as the sine or cosine of a linear function of time or space or both.

**sin-ew-y** (sīn'yōb-ē) *adj.* 1. Consisting of or being like *sinew*. 2. Lean and muscular. 3. Strong: vigorous.

**sin-ful** (sīn'fəl) *adj.* Characterized by or full of sin: WICKED <sinful deeds> <sinful thoughts> —**sin'ful-ly** *adv.* —**sin'ful-ness** *n.*

**sing** (sīng) *v.* **sang** (sāng), **sung** (sūng), **sing-ing**, **sings**. [ME *singen* < OE *singan*.] —*vi.* 1. To utter a series of sounds or words in musical tones. 2. To vocalize songs. 3. To produce or have the effect of melody: LILT. 4. To produce musical sounds when played <made the violin sing> 5. To make a high whine <The machine sang> 6. To be filled with a buzzing sound <The great hall sang with voices> 7. To proclaim or extol something in poetry. 8. *Slang*. To give information or evidence against someone. —*vt.* 1. To render in tones with musical inflections of the voice <The messenger sang the telegram> 2. To produce the musical sound of. 3. To intone: chant. 4. To proclaim, esp. in verse <sang our praises> 5. To bring to a specified state by singing <sang the child to sleep> —**sing-out** *phr.* To shout out loudly. —*n.* A gathering of people for group singing. —**sing-a-ble** *adj.*

**sing-a-long** (sīng'ə-lōng, -lōng) *n.* A songfest.

**singe** (sīnī) *vt.* **singed**, **singe-ing**, **singes**. [ME *sengen* < OE *sengan*.] 1. To burn superficially: SCORCH. 2. To burn the ends of. 3. To burn off the feathers or bristles of by subjecting briefly to flame. —**singe** *n.* —**singer** (sīn'jər) *n.*

**singer** (sīng'ər) *n.* 1. A person who sings, esp. a trained or professional vocalist. 2. A poet. 3. A songbird.

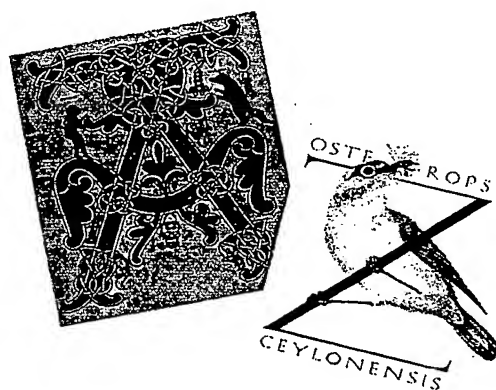
**Sing-ha-lese** (sīng'gə-lēz', -lēz') *also* **Sin-ha-lese** (sīn'hə-lēz', -lēz') *n. pl. Singhalese* *also* **Sinhalese**. [Skt. *Sinhala*, Sri Lanka + *-ese*.] 1. A people constituting the major portion of the population of Sri Lanka. 2. The Indic language of the Singhalese that is the chief language of Sri Lanka. —*adj.* Of or relating to the Singhalese or their language.

**single** (sīng-gəl) *adj.* [ME *sengle* < OFr. < Lat. *singulus*.] 1. Unaccompanied by another or others: SOLE <a single survivor> 2. a. Consisting of one part or form <a single layer> <a single standard of quality> b. Consisting of one alone <I had but a single thought, which was to survive> 3. Undivided: unbroken. 4. Separate from others: DISTINCT. 5. Designed to accommodate only one <a single room> 6. a. Unmarried <single people> b. Of or pertaining to celibacy. 7. Bot. Having only one rank or row of petals <a single flower> —*n.* 1. A separate unit: INDIVIDUAL. 2. An accommodation for one person. 3. One who is unmarried <a bar for singles> 4. A one-dollar bill. 5. a. Baseball. A one-base hit. b. A hit for one run in cricket. c. A golf match between two players. d. *often* **singles**. A tennis match between two players. —*v.* -gled, -gling, -gles. —*vt.* 1. To choose from among others <singled you out for this great honor> 2. Baseball. To cause (a baserunner) to *single*

ā pat ā pay ā care ā father ē pet ē be hw which -f -p  
ī tie ī pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise ō use

*The*  
**American  
Heritage® Dictionary**  
*of the English Language*

FOURTH EDITION



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY  
Boston New York

Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

American Heritage® and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of Forbes Inc. Their use is pursuant to a license agreement with Forbes Inc.

Copyright © 2000 Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Visit our Web site: [www.hmco.com/trade](http://www.hmco.com/trade).

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

The American Heritage dictionary of the English language.—4th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-395-82517-2 (hardcover) — ISBN 0-618-08230-1

(hardcover with CD ROM)

1. English language—Dictionaries

PE1628 .A623 2000

423—dc21

00-025369

Manufactured in the United States of America

turner who patented (1851) a sewing machine capable of making continuous stitches.

**Sing•ha•lese** (sing'ga-lēz', -lēz') *n. & adj.* A variant of Sinhalese.

**sin•gle** (sing'gal) *adj.* 1. Not accompanied by another or others; solitary. 2a. Consisting of one part, aspect, or section: a *single thickness*; a *single serving*. b. Having the same application for all: uniform: a *single moral code for all*. c. Consisting of one in number: *She had but a single thought, which was to escape*. 3. Not divided; unbroken: a *single slab of ice*. 4a. Separate from others; individual and distinct: *Every single child will receive a gift*. b. Having individual opponents; involving two individuals only: *single combat*. 5a. Honest; undisguised: a *single adoration*. b. Wholly attentive: *You must judge the contest with a single eye*. 6. Designed to accommodate one person: a *single bed*. 7a. Unmarried. b. Lacking a partner: a *single parent*. c. Relating to the unmarried state: *enjoys the single life*. d. Of or relating to celibacy. 8. Botany Having only one rank or row of petals: a *single flower*. *♦ n.* 1. One that is separate and individual. 2. An accommodation for one person, as in a hotel. 3a. An unmarried person. b. **singles** Unmarried persons considered as a group: a *bar for singles*. 4. A one-dollar bill. 5a. A phonograph record, especially a forty-five, having one song on each side. b. A song on one of these sides. c. A song, often from a full-length album or compact disk, that is released for airplay. 6. *Baseball* A hit by which a batter reaches first base safely; a one-base hit. 7. *Sports a.* A hit for one run in cricket. b. A golf match between two players. c. A tennis or badminton match between two players. Often used in the plural. d. **singles** A competition in which individuals compete against each other, as in rowing or figure skating. *♦ v.* -gled, -gling, -gles —*tr.* 1. To choose or distinguish from others. Often used with *out*: *We singled her out from the list of applicants*. 2. *Baseball a.* To cause (a base runner) to score or advance by making a one-base hit: *singled him to second*. b. To cause the scoring of (a run) by a one-base hit. —*intr.* *Baseball* To make a single. [Middle English *singl*, from Old French, from Latin *singulus*. See *sem-* in Appendix I.] —**sin•gle•ness** *n.*

**single blind** *n.* A testing procedure in which the administrators do not tell the subjects if they are being given a test treatment or a control treatment in order to avoid bias in the results. —**sin•gle-blind'** (sing'gal-blind') *adj.*

**single bond** *n.* A covalent bond in which one electron pair is shared by two atoms.

**sin•gle-breast•ed** (sing'gal-brēs'tid) *adj.* Closing with a narrow overlap and fastened down the front with a single row of buttons: a *single-breasted suit*.

**sin•gle-cell protein** (sing'gal-sēl') *n.* Abbr. SCP A protein extracted from cultured algae, yeasts, or bacteria and used as a substitute for protein-rich foods, especially in animal feeds.

**single cross** *n.* Genetics The hybrid of two inbred lines. It can be represented as AB, the product of the cross A × B, where A and B represent inbred lines.

**single entry** *n.* A system of bookkeeping in which a business keeps only a single account showing amounts due and amounts owed.

**sin•gle-fam•ily** (sing'gal-fām'v-lē, -fām'lē) *adj.* Relating to or being a dwelling designed for one family only: a *single-family home*; *single-family occupancy*.

**single file** *n.* A line of people, animals, or things standing or moving one behind the other. Also called *Indian file*. —**single file** *adv.*

**sin•gle-foot** (sing'gal-fōt') *n.* A rapid gait of a horse in which each foot strikes the ground separately; the rack. No longer in technical use. *♦ intr.v.* -foot•ed, -foot•ing, -foots To go at the single-foot. —**sin•gle-foot'er** *n.*

**sin•gle-hand** (sing'gal-hānd') *tr.v.* -hand•ed, -hand•ing, -hands To sail (a boat) without the help of others: "a *business executive who single-hands her own small cruising cutter*" (Tony Gibbs). —**sin•gle-hand'er** *n.*

**sin•gle-hand•ed** (sing'gal-hān'did) *adj.* 1. Working or done without help; unassisted. 2. Intended for use with one hand. 3. Having or using only one hand. *♦ adv.* In a single-handed manner. —**sin•gle-hand•ed•ly** *adv.* —**sin•gle-hand•ed•ness** *n.*

**sin•gle-heart•ed** (sing'gal-hār'tid) *adj.* Sincere and dedicated. —**sin•gle-heart•ed•ly** *adv.* —**sin•gle-heart•ed•ness** *n.*

**sin•gle-hood** (sing'gal-hōod') *n.* The state of being unmarried.

**sin•gle-is•sue** (sing'gal-ish'ōo) *adj.* Of, relating to, or concerned with a single public issue, especially a controversial one, to the exclusion of all other issues: *single-issue groups*; *single-issue politics*.

**single knot** *n.* See *overhand knot*.

**sin•gle-lens reflex** (sing'gal-lēnz') *adj.* Abbr. SLR Of or designating a form of reflex camera in which the reflecting mirror retracts when the shutter is released.

**sin•gle-mind•ed** (sing'gal-mīn'did) *adj.* 1. Having one overriding purpose or goal: *the single-minded pursuit of money*. 2. Steadfast; resolute: *He was single-minded in his determination to stop smoking*. —**sin•gle-mind•ed•ly** *adv.* —**sin•gle-mind•ed•ness** *n.*

**sin•gle-phase** (sing'gal-fāz') *adj.* Producing, carrying, or powered by a single alternating voltage.

**sin•gles bar** (sing'galz) *n.* A bar patronized especially by unmarried men and women.

**sin•gle-sex** (sing'gal-sēks') *adj.* Same-sex.

**sin•gle-space** (sing'gal-spās') *v.* -spaced, -spac•ing, -spac•es —*tr.* To type, print, or format (copy) without leaving a blank line between lines. —*intr.* To type, print, or format copy without leaving a blank line between lines.

**single standard** *n.* A set of principles with the same standard for all, especially regarding the sexual behavior of both men and women.

**sin•gle•stick** (sing'gal-stik') *n.* 1. A one-handed fencing stick fitted with a hand guard. 2. The art, sport, or exercise of fencing with such a stick.

**sin•gle•stick•er** (sing'gal-stik'ər) *n.* A sailboat with one mast; a sloop.

**sin•glet** (sing'glit) *n.* 1. Chiefly British A man's jersey undershirt. 2. Physics A multiplet with a single member.

**single tax** *n.* A system by which all revenue is derived from a tax on one thing, especially land.

**sin•gle•ton** (sing'gal-tən) *n.* 1. Games A playing card that is the only one of its suit in a player's hand. 2a. An individual separated or distinguished from two or more of its group. b. An offspring born alone. [From the name *Singleton* (influenced by *SINGLE*).]

**sin•gle-track** (sing'gal-trāk') *adj.* 1. Having just one track: *single-track railway*. 2. Lacking mental range or flexibility; one-track: a *single-track mind*.

**sin•gle•tree** (sing'gal-trē') *n.* See *whiffletree*. [Alteration (influenced by *DOUBLETREE*) of *SWINGLETREE*.]

**sin•gle•wide** (sing'gal-wid') *n.* A mobile home 14 feet (4.3 meters) in width, used as a permanent residence. —**sin•gle•wide'** *adj.*

**sin•gly** (sing'glē) *adv.* 1. Without the presence of others; alone. 2. Without the help of others; single-handed. 3. One by one; individually.

**sin•g•song** (sing'sōng', -sōng') *n.* 1. Verse characterized by mechanical regularity of rhythm and rhyme. 2. A monotonously rising and falling inflection of the voice. *♦ adj.* Monotonous in vocal inflection or rhythm. —**sin•g•song'y** *adj.*

**sin•g•spiel** (sing'spēl', zīng'shpēl') *n.* An 18th-century German musical comedy featuring songs and ensembles interspersed with dialogue. [German: *singen*, to sing (from Middle High German, from Old High German *singan*; see *sen•* in Appendix I) + *Spiel*, play; see *SPIEL*.]

**sin•gu•lar** (sing'gya-lər) *adj.* 1. Being only one; individual. 2. Being the only one of a kind; unique. 3. Being beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable. 4. Deviating from the usual or expected; odd. See synonyms at *strange*. 5. Grammar a. Of, relating to, or being a noun, pronoun, or adjective denoting a single person or thing or several entities considered as a single unit. b. Of, relating to, or being a verb expressing the action or state of a single subject. 6. Logic Of or relating to the specific as distinguished from the general; individual. *♦ n.* Grammar 1. The singular number or a form designating it. 2. A word having a singular number. [Middle English *singuler*, from Old French, from Latin *singularis*, from *singulus*, single. See *SINGLE*.] —**sin•gu•lar•ly** *adv.* —**sin•gu•lar•ness** *n.*

**sin•gu•lar•ity** (sing'gya-lār'itē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. The quality or condition of being singular. 2. A trait marking one as distinct from others; a peculiarity. 3. Something uncommon or unusual. 4. Astrophysics A point in space-time at which gravitational forces cause matter to have infinite density and infinitesimal volume, and space and time to become infinitely distorted. 5. Mathematics A point at which the derivative does not exist for a given function but every neighborhood of which contains points for which the derivative exists. Also called *singular point*.

**sin•gu•lar•ize** (sing'gya-lā-rīz') *tr.v.* -ized, -iz•ing, -iz•es To make conspicuous; distinguish.

**singular point** *n.* See *singularity* (sense 5).

**sin•gu•la•tive** (sing'gya-lā'tiv, -lā'tiv) *adj.* Of or relating to a linguistic form or construction that expresses a singular entity, often as opposed to a collective, such as *rice-grain* as opposed to *rice*. *♦ n.* A singular form or construction. [French *singulatif*, from Latin *singillatim*, *singulātīm*, one at a time, singly, from *singulus*, single. See *SINGLE*.]

**sinh** *abbr.* hyperbolic sine

**Sin•ha•la** (sīn'hā'lā) *n., pl. Sinhala* or *-las* 1. A Sinhalese. 2. The Sinhalese language. [Sinhala *Sinhala*, from Sanskrit *sinhalah*, Sri Lanka, from *sinhah*, lion (perhaps from the former presence of lions there).]

**Sin•ha•lese** (sīn'hā-lēz', -lēz') also **Sing•ha•lese** (sing'ga-lēz', -lēz') *n., pl. Sinhalese* or *Singhalese* 1. A member of a people constituting the majority of the population of Sri Lanka. 2. The Indic language of the Sinhalese that is the chief language of Sri Lanka. *♦ adj.* Of or relating to Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese, or their language or culture. [Sanskrit *Sinhālam*, Sri Lanka + *-ESE*.]

**Sin•i•cism** (sī'nī-sīz'əm, sīn'ī-) *n.* A custom or trait peculiar to the Chinese. [From *Sinici*, Chinese, from Medieval Latin *Sinicus*, from Late Latin *Sinae*, the Chinese. See *SINO-*.]

**Sin•i•cize** (sī'nī-sīz', sīn'ī-) *tr.v.* -cized, -ciz•ing, -ciz•es To make Chinese in character or to change or modify by Chinese influence. —**Sin•i•ci•za•tion** (-sī-zā'shən) *n.*

**Sin•i•fy** (sī'nā-fī', sīn'ā-) *tr.v.* -fied, -fy•ing, -fies To Sinitize. [Late Latin *Sinica*, the Chinese; see *SINO-* + *-FY*.] —**Sin•i•fi•ca•tion** (-fī-kā'shən) *n.*

**sin•is•ter** (sīn'ī-stər) *adj.* 1. Suggesting or threatening evil: a *sinister smile*. 2. Presaging trouble; ominous: *sinister storm clouds*. 3. Attended by or causing disaster or inauspicious circumstances. 4. On the left side; left. 5. Heraldry Situated on or being the side of a shield on the wearer's left and the observer's right. [Middle English *sinistre*, unfavorable, from Old French, from Latin *sinister*, on the left, unlucky.] —**sin•is•ter•ly** *adv.* —**sin•is•ter•ness** *n.*

**Synonyms** *sinister, baleful, malign* These adjectives apply to what is indicative of or threatens great harm, disaster, or evil. *Sinister* usually implies impending or lurking danger that makes its presence felt by ominous signs or portents: *We heard a sinister laugh from behind the door.* *Baleful* intensifies the sense of menace; it suggests a deadly, virulent, or poisonous quality: *The guard's baleful glare frightened the children.* *Malign* applies to what manifests an evil disposition, nature, influence, or



Isaac M. Singer



single-breasted  
single-breasted blazer

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ī pit	ūr urge
ī pie	th thin
īr pier	th this
ō pot	hw which
ō toe	zh vision
ō paw	ā about, item
	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary);  
' (secondary), as in  
dictionary (dīk'shə-nēr'ē)

WEBSTER'S  
NEW  
TWENTIETH CENTURY  
DICTIONARY  
OF THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
UNABRIDGED

SECOND EDITION

BASED UPON THE BROAD FOUNDATIONS LAID DOWN BY

Noah Webster

EXTENSIVELY REVISED BY THE PUBLISHER'S EDITORIAL STAFF UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF

JEAN L. McKECHNIE

INCLUDING ETYMOLOGIES, FULL PRONUNCIATIONS, SYNONYMS, AND AN ENCYCLOPEDIC SUPPLEMENT  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, SCRIPTURE PROPER NAMES, FOREIGN WORDS AND  
PHRASES, PRACTICAL BUSINESS MATHEMATICS, ABBREVIATIONS, TABLES OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES,  
SIGNS AND SYMBOLS, AND FORMS OF ADDRESS

ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT



WILLIAM COLLINS  
PUBLISHERS, INC.

1980

# WEBSTER'S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY

Second Edition

Copyright © 1979 by  
William Collins Publishers, Inc.

Copyright © 1977 and 1975 by  
William Collins+World Publishing Co., Inc.

Copyright © 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970  
by The World Publishing Company

Previous edition Copyright © 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943,  
1945, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954  
by the World Publishing Company

Copyright © by The World Syndicate Publishing Company 1936, 1938

Copyright © by Louise A. Cooper 1933, 1934, 1935

Copyright © by Geo. W. Ogilvie 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908,  
1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1924, 1926

Full-Color Plates Copyright © 1972 by  
The World Publishing Company

Copyright under the Universal Copyright Convention; the International  
Copyright Union; Pan-American Conventions of Montevideo, Mexico, Rio de  
Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Havana.

ISBN 0-529-04852-3

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



## sinecurist

- sin'ē-cū-ris't**, *n.* one who has or seeks a sinecure.
- sin'ē dī'ē**, [*L.*] without (a) day (being set for meeting again); for an indefinite period; as, the assembly adjourned *sine die*.
- sin'ē prō'lē**, [*L.*] in law, without offspring; childless.
- sin'ē quā** (*kwā*) **non**, [*L.*] an essential condition, qualification, etc.; an indispensable thing; an absolute prerequisite.
- sin'ew** (-ū), *n.* [*ME. sinewe; AS. sionu.*]
1. in anatomy, a tendon; the tough fibrous tissue which unites a muscle to a bone.
  2. that which supplies power or strength; as, the *sinews* of war.
  3. muscular power; strength; force.
- sin'ew**, *v.t.*; *sinewed*, *pt.*, *pp.*; *sinewing*, *ppr.*
1. to knit strongly together, as with sinews.
  2. to strengthen; to supply with or as with sinews; to make robust.
- sin'ew-i-ness**, *n.* the state or quality of being sinewy.
- sin'ew-ish**, *a.* sinewy. [*Obs.*]
- sin'ew-less**, *a.* without sinews; having no strength or vigor.
- sin'ew-ous**, *a.* sinewy.
- sin'ew-shrunk**, *a.* having the sinews under the belly shrunk by excess of fatigue, as a horse.
- sin'ew-y**, *a.* 1. pertaining to, consisting of, or resembling a sinew; tough; strong.  
The *sinewy* thread my brain lets fall.  
—Donne.
2. having many or large sinews, as a cut of meat.
  3. having good muscular development; as, *sinewy* shoulders.
  4. vigorous; powerful; robust; as, a *sinewy* style of writing.
- sin-fō-ni'ā**, *n.*; *pl. sin-fō-ni'ē*, [*It.*] in music, same as *symphony*.
- sin'ful**, *a.* full of or characterized by sin; wicked; iniquitous; as, *sinful* men; *sinful* actions.
- sin'ful-ly**, *adv.* in a sinful manner; so as to be sinful.
- sin'ful-ness**, *n.* the quality or state of being sinful.
- sing**, *v.i.*; *sang* or *now rarely sung*, *pt.*; *sung*, *pp.*; *singing*, *ppr.* [*AS. singan*; akin to *G. singen*, to sing.]
1. (a) to produce musical sounds or notes with the voice, especially in a connected series, as in voicing a song; (b) to deliver musical selections vocally, especially as a professional.
  2. to use song or verse in description, praise, etc.; as, of thee I *sing*.
  3. to sound somewhat like the singing of a human voice; to produce a musical note or notes, as a songbird, steaming teakettle, wind, etc.
  4. to buzz, hum, ring, etc., as the ears, an insect, flying missile, etc.
  5. to admit of being sung.
  6. to be exultant; to rejoice; as, a sight to make one's heart *sing*.
  7. to confess to a crime, especially so as to implicate others. [*Slang.*]  
to *sing out*; to speak or call out loudly; to shout. [*Colloq.*]
- sing**, *v.t.* 1. to render or deliver (a song, musical role, etc.) by singing; to utter with musical inflections.
2. to chant or intone (part of a church service, etc.).
  3. to describe, proclaim, extol, celebrate, etc. in or as in song or verse; as, they all *sing* his praises.
  4. to bring to a given state, as sleep, by singing.
  5. to accompany, escort, etc. with singing.
- sing**, *n.* 1. a shrill buzzing, whistling, or humming sound; as, the *sing* of arrows overhead.
2. (a) group singing; (b) a gathering for this purpose. [*Colloq.*]
- sing'a-ble**, *a.* 1. that can be sung.
2. easy to sing; tuneful; lyrical; melodic.
- singe**, *v.t.*; *singed*, *pt.*, *pp.*; *singeing*, *ppr.* [*AS. sengan*, to singe, causative of *singan*, to sing; akin to *G. sengen*, to singe.]
1. to burn superficially or slightly.
  2. to expose (an animal carcass) to flame in removing bristles or feathers.
  3. to burn the nap from (cloth) as a process of manufacture.
  4. to burn the ends of (hair) after cutting.
- singe**, *n.* 1. a singeing.
2. a superficial or slight burn.

- sing'ēr**, *n.* 1. one who sings; one versed in music; one whose occupation is to sing; as, a chorus of *singers*.
2. a bird that sings.
  3. one who composes verse; a poet.
- sing'ēr**, *n.* 1. one who or that which sings; one who sings the nap of cloth.
2. a machine for singeing cloth.
- sing'ēr-ess**, *n.* a songstress. [*Obs.*]
- Sin'ghā-lēse'** (-gā-), *a.* [from Sans. *Sinhala*, Ceylon; and *-ese*] of Ceylon, its principal race, their language, etc.
- Sin'ghā-lēse'**, *n.* 1. *pl. Sin'ghā-lēse'*, a member of the Singhalese people.
2. their Indic language.
- Also *Sinhalese*.
- sing'hā'rā** **nut**, same as *water chestnut*.
- sing'ing**, *n.* 1. the act of uttering sounds with musical inflection.
2. the act of narrating in verse.
  3. the sensation of a continual ringing noise in the ears; as, I have a *singing* in my head.
- sing'ing**, *a.* producing or that can produce musical tones or sounds.
- singing bird*; any bird that sings; specifically, an oscine.
- singing fish*; a toadfish of the genus *Po-richthys*, native to California.
- singing flame*; in physics, a flame, generally enclosed in a tube, which emits a musical sound.
- singing school*; a school in which instruction is given in singing.
- sing'ing-ly**, *adv.* in a singing manner.
- sin'gle** (-gl), *a.* [*L. singulus*, single.]
1. one only; one and no more; individual.
  2. without another or others; alone; solitary.
  3. of or for one person, as a bed, room, etc., or one family, as a house.
  4. weak in quality; said of beer, ale, etc. [*Brit.*]
  5. between two persons only; with only one on each side; as, *single* combat.
  6. (a) unmarried; (b) of or characteristic of the unmarried state.
  7. having only one part; not double, compound, multiple, etc.
  8. having only one row or set of petals; said of flowers and plants.
  9. honest; sincere.
  10. seeing justly; as, judge with a *single* eye.
  11. in telegraphy, simplex.
- single bill*; a note of hand or other written agreement to pay money without conditions.
- single court*; in lawn tennis, a court laid out for two players.
- single file*; (a) a single column of persons or things placed or moving one directly behind another; (b) in such a column; as, the men are marching *single file*.
- single flower*; a flower having only a single set of petals, as a wild rose.
- single standard*; (a) a moral code establishing one code of behavior for men and women alike, especially in matters of sex; (b) a standard of monetary values based on a single metal, as either gold or silver; opposed to *double standard*.
- single whip*; in nautical usage, one rope only running through a block.
- Syn.**—one, only, sole, solitary, individual, separate, uncombined, unmarried, uncompounded.
- sin'gle**, *v.t.*; *singled*, *pt.*, *pp.*; *singling*, *ppr.*
1. to select, as an individual person or thing, from among a number; to choose from others; usually with *out*; as, he could not understand why he was *singled out*.
  2. to sequester; to withdraw; to retire. [*Obs.*]
- sin'gle**, *v.i.* 1. to separate from others, as a hunted deer when it leaves the herd.
2. to move with a single-footed gait, as horses.
  3. in baseball, to make a single.
- sin'gle**, *n.* 1. a single person or thing.
2. in baseball, a hit by which the batter reaches no farther than first base.
  3. in cricket, a hit by which one run is scored.
  4. in golf, a match between two persons; a twosome; distinguished from *foursome*.
  5. [*pl.*] in tennis, etc., a game with only one player on each side.
  6. the tail of a deer or buck. [*Brit.*]
- sin'gle-act'ing**, *a.* acting in or impelled from one direction only; not reciprocating.

## singletree

- single-acting engine*; an engine in which the steam acts only against the under side of the piston, the weight of the atmosphere pressing it down again, against the vacuum produced by the condensation of the spent steam. Such engines are now out of date.
- single-acting piston*; a piston which is in contact with the fluid upon which it acts on one side only.
- single-acting pump*; a pump which delivers liquid at each alternate stroke only, one stroke being spent in drawing or lifting the liquid into the pump, the other in delivering it.
- sin'gle-ac'tion**, *a.* designating a firearm whose hammer must be cocked by hand before the weapon can be fired.
- sin'gle-banked** (-bākt), *a.* 1. having one oarsman to a thwart.
2. having one bank or tier of oars, as some vessels of former times.
  3. having one row of keys, as an organ.
- sin'gle-bār**, *n.* a singletree.
- sin'gle-breast'ed** (-brest'), *a.* covering the front of the body with only one thickness, overlapping just enough to fasten; said of coats, vests, etc.; opposed to *double-breasted*.
- sin'gle-en'try**, *a.* having to do with bookkeeping by single entry.
- sin'gle en'try**, *n.* a system of bookkeeping in which the only account kept is a single one consisting of debts owed to and by the concern in question.
- sin'gle-fire**, *a.* not intended to be loaded a second time after firing; having the fulminating material inside the head or base, as a breech-loading cartridge.
- sin'gle-foot**, *n.* the gait of a horse in which the legs move in lateral pairs, each foot falling singly and the body being supported alternately upon one foot and two feet; also called *rack*.
- sin'gle-foot**, *v.i.* to go with a single-foot gait; as horses; also called *rack*.
- sin'gle-hand'ed**, *a.* 1. having one hand or workman only.
2. unassisted; by oneself alone; alone.
  3. worked or managed by one hand only; as, a *single-handed* sword.
- sin'gle-heart'ed**, *a.* having a single or honest heart; without duplicity.
- sin'gle-heart'ed-ly**, *adv.* in a single-hearted manner.
- sin'gle-mind'ed**, *a.* 1. having a single or honest mind or heart.
2. having but one purpose in view.
- sin'gle-ness**, *n.* the state or quality of being single.
- sin'gle-phase'**, *a.* in electricity, denoting a phase present in ordinary alternating currents in a simple alternating current system.
- sin'gle-phās'ēr**, *n.* in electricity, a machine that produces a single-pressure wave.
- sin'gle-seed'ed**, *a.* containing one seed only.
- sin'gle-stick**, *n.* 1. a swordlike stick used for fencing and fitted with a basket hilt to protect the hand.
2. the sport of fencing with such sticks.
  3. a wooden sword used in practice in place of the cutlass.
- sin'gle-stick'ēr**, *n.* a sailboat, especially a sloop, having but a single mast. [*Colloq.*]
- sin'glet**, *n.* 1. an unlined waistcoat; the opposite of a *doublet*, which is lined. [*Archaic.*]
2. a man's undershirt or jersey. [*Brit.*]
- sin'gle-tax**, *a.* advocating or having to do with single tax.
- sin'gle tax**, 1. a system of taxation in which all revenue is from a tax on a single object, specifically on land.
2. a tax of this kind.
- sin'gle-tōn**, *n.* [from *single*, after proper names ending in *-ton*].
1. a playing card that is the only one of its suit held by a given player.
  2. a single thing, as distinguished from one of a pair, several, etc.
- sin'gle-track'**, *a.* 1. having only one set of rails; as, a *single-track* trolley or railroad.
2. having a limited scope; narrow; as, a *single-track* mind.
- Also *one-track*.
- sin'gle-tree**, *n.* [a corrupted form of *MF. swingle-tre*, from *swingle*, a swinger, and *tre*, a piece of wood.] the swinging horizontal crossbar to which the traces or tugs of a harness horse are fastened; also called *swingletree*, *whippletree*, *whiffletree*.

- sin'gle-va**
- sin'glings** which is
- sin'gly**, *ad-*
- thing; al-
2. indi-
- one by o
3. alon-
- unaided.
4. in a-
5. unic-
- sin'gling**, antelope
- sin'gong**, monoton
2. vers-
- such ton-
- sin'gong**, as sound
- sin'gong**, singsong
- ous, drea
- Sin'gspil**, which dis-
- of drama
- the princ
- Germany
- sin'gster**, a singer
- sin'gū-lār**, singular
- single.]
1. (a) i-
  - having t-
  - peculiar t-
  2. in g-
  - opposed
  3. rema-
  - a man of
  - ments.
  4. not
  - plying son-
- None s-
5. being
- parallel; t-
6. in lo-
- particula-
- singular*
- which ha-
- term or
- dividual.
- singular*
- of feudal
- distinctio
- general ti
- singular*
- individua
- Syn.**—t-
- ment, exte
- rare, unu
- trici-
- sin'gū-lār**, itself.
2. in gr-
  - person or
  - word; op-
- sin'gū-lār**, [*Obs.*]
- sin'gū-lār'**, *singularit*
1. pecu-
  - a person
  - from all c
  - istic.
  2. th co
  3. a sin-
  4. parti
  - inction. [
- sin'gū-lār**, larizing, 1
2. to m-
- sin'gū-lār**, or degree
- singularly*
2. oddl-
  3. so as
- ber.
- sin'gult**, *n.*
- sin'gul'tou**, hiccups.
- sin'gul'tu**, Sin-hā-lēse
- Sin'tc**, *a.* [Chinese; c-
- sin'tc-āl**, c-
- sines; as,
- Sin't-ciām**,
- use, bull, i

# WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of  
*The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*

GRAMERCY BOOKS  
New York

#### Acknowledgments and Permissions

The "A Dictionary of the English Language" section of this book (*Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary*) is based on the second edition of *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, the Unabridged Edition*, copyright © 1993, 1987.

Copyright © 1996 by Random House Value Publishing, Inc.  
All rights reserved under International and Pan-American  
Copyright Conventions.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by  
any means electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording, or  
by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in  
writing from the publisher.

This 1996 edition is published by Gramercy Books,  
a division of Random House Value Publishing, Inc.,  
201 East 50th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022.

Gramercy Books and colophon are trademarks of  
Random House Value Publishing, Inc.

Random House  
New York • Toronto • London • Sydney • Auckland  
<http://www.randomhouse.com/>  
*Printed and bound in the United States*

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's encyclopedic unabridged dictionary of the English language—  
New rev. ed.

p. cm.

"The dictionary entries are based on the second edition of  
The Random House dictionary of the English language."

1. English language—Dictionaries.

PE1625.W46 1994  
423dc20

93-48137  
CIP

OLD ISBN: 0-517-11888-2  
New Deluxe Edition: 0-517-15026-3

10 9 8 7

**Sing-er** (sing'ər), *n.* 1. **Isaac Ba-shev-is** (bā shev'is), (1894-91, U.S. novelist and short-story writer (in Yiddish), born in Poland; Nobel prize 1978. 2. **Isaac Mer-ris** (mer'it), 1811-75, U.S. inventor.

**Singh-**, *Sinhalese.*

**Sing-gha-lesé** (sing'gə lēz', -lēz'), *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -lesé. *Sinhalese.*

**sing-ing-fish** (sing'ing fish'), *n.*, *pl.* (esp. collectively) -fish, (esp. referring to two or more kinds or species) -fish-es. *midshipman* (def. 3). [1880-85, Amer.; SINGING + FISH; so called because of the humming sound it produces with its air bladder]

**sing-ing game**, a children's game in which the players perform certain actions to the words of a song. [1880-85]

**sin-gle** (sing'gəl), *adj.*, *v.*, -gled, -gling, *n.* —*adj.* 1. only one in number; one only; unique; sole: a *single* example. 2. of, pertaining to, or suitable for one person only: a *single* room. 3. solitary or sole; lone: He was the *single* survivor. 4. unmarried: a *single* man. 5. pertaining to the unmarried state: the *single* life. 6. of one against one, as combat or fight. 7. consisting of only one part, element, or member: a *single* lens. 8. sincere and undivided: *single* devotion. 9. separate, particular, or distinct; individual: Every *single* one of you must do your best. It's the *single* most important thing. 10. uniform; applicable to all: a *single* safety code for all manufacturers. 11. (of a bed or bedclothes) twin-size. 12. (of a flower) having only one set of petals. 13. *Brit.* of standard strength or body, as ale, beer, etc. Cf. **double** (def. 1). 14. (of the eye) seeing rightly, etc. —*v.* 15. to pick or choose (one) from others (usually *for* by *out*): to *single out* a fact for special mention. 16. *Baseball.* a. to cause the advance of (a base runner) by a one-base hit. b. to cause (a run) to be scored by a one-base hit (often *for* by *in* or *home*). —*v.i.* 17. *Baseball.* to hit a *single*. —*n.* 18. one person or thing; a *single* one. 19. an accommodation suitable for one person only, as a hotel room or a table at a restaurant; to *reserve* a *single*. 20. a ticket for a single seat at a theater. 21. *Brit.* a. a one-way ticket. b. a steam locomotive having one driving wheel on each side. 22. an unmarried person, esp. one who is relatively young. 23. *Baseball.* Also called *one-base hit*, a base hit that enables a batter to reach first base safely. 24. *singles*, (used with a singular *v.*) a match with one player on each side, as a tennis match. 25. *Golf.* two-some (def. 4). 26. *Cricket.* a hit for which one run is scored. 27. *Informal.* a one-dollar bill. 28. a phonograph record usually played at 45 r.p.m. and often having one popular song on each side. 29. the song recorded on one side of a *single*. 30. *Often, singles.* *Textiles.* a. reeled or spun silk that may or may not be thrown. b. a one-ply yarn of any fiber that has been drawn and twisted. [1275-1325; late ME (*adj.*), ME *sen-gle* < OF < L *singulus* individual, *single*, (*pl.*) one apiece, deriv. of *sem-* one (see *SIMPLEX*)] —*Syn.* 1. distinct, particular. 3. isolated. 4. unweid. 15. select. 18. individual.

**sin-gle-act-ing** (sing'gəl ak'ting), *adj.* (of a reciprocating engine, pump, etc.) having pistons accomplishing work only in one direction. Cf. **double-acting** (def. 1). [1815-25]

**sin-gle-ac-tion** (sing'gəl ak'shən), *adj.* (of a firearm) requiring the cocking of the hammer before firing each shot: a *single-action* revolver. [1850-55]

**sin-gle-bar-reil** (sing'gəl bār'el), *n.* a gun having one barrel, esp. a shotgun. [1840-50] —*sin-gle-bar-reiled*, *adj.*

**sin-gle-blind** (sing'gəl blīnd'), *adj.* of or pertaining to an experiment or clinical trial in which the researchers but not the subjects know which subjects are receiving the active medication or treatment and which are not: a technique for eliminating subjective bias, as the placebo effect, from the test results. Cf. **double-blind**. [1960-65]

**sin-gle bond**, *Chem.* a chemical linkage consisting of one covalent bond between two atoms of a molecule, represented in chemical formulas by one line or two vertical dots, as C-H or C-H.

**sin-gle-breast-ed** (sing'gəl bres'tid), *adj.* 1. (of a coat, jacket, etc.) having a front closure directly in the center with only a narrow overlap secured by a single button or row of buttons. 2. (of a suit) having a jacket or coat of this type. Cf. **double-breasted**. [1790-1800]

**sin-gle bu'oy moor'ing**, *Naut.* monobuoy.

**sin-gle com'bat**, combat between two persons. [1600-10]

**sin-gle-cross** (sing'gəl krōs', -kros'), *n.* *Genetics.* a cross between two inbred lines. [1935-40]

**sin-gle cut**, *Jewelry.* a simple form of brilliant cut, having eight facets above and eight facets below the girdle, as well as the table, and usually a culet. Also called *eight cut*, *Old English cut*. [1825-35]

**sin-gle-cut** (sing'gəl kut'), *adj.* noting a file having a series of parallel cutting ridges in one direction only. Cf. **double-cut**.

**sin-gle-dig-it** (sing'gəl dij'it), *adj.* of or denoting a percentage smaller than ten, esp. with reference to rates below that level: *single-digit* rates of inflation.

**sin-gle-end-ed** (sing'gəl en'did), *adj.* 1. (of a boiler) fired from one end only. 2. *Elect.* (of a circuit or transmission line) unbalanced, as when one part of a circuit is grounded.

**sin-gle en'try**, *Bookkeeping.* 1. an item noted only once. 2. a simple accounting system noting only amounts owed by and due to a business. Cf. **double entry**. [1820-30] —*sin-gle-en'try*, *adj.*

**sin-gle file**, a line of persons or things arranged one behind the other; *Indian file*. [1660-70]

**sin-gle-foot** (sing'gəl fōt'), *n.* 1. rack<sup>2</sup> (def. 1). —*v.i.* 2. (of a horse) to go at a rack. [1860-65, Amer.]

**sin-gle-hand-ed** (sing'gəl han'did), *adj.* 1. accomplished or done by one person alone: a *single-handed*

victory; *single-handed* sailing. 2. by one's own effort; unaided. —*adv.* 3. by oneself; alone; without aid: He built the garage *single-handed*. [1700-10] —*sin-gle-hand-ed-ness*, *n.*

**sin-gle-hand-ed-ly** (sing'gəl han'did lē), *adv.* in a single-handed manner; *single-handed*. [1880-85]

**sin-gle-heart-ed** (sing'gəl hār'tid), *adj.* sincere and undivided in feeling or spirit; dedicated; not reflecting mixed emotions: He was *single-hearted* in his patriotism. [1870-80] —*sin-gle-heart-ed-ly*, *adv.* —*sin-gle-heart-ed-ness*, *n.*

**sin-gle-hood** (sing'gəl hōd'), *n.* the status of being unmarried. [1830-40; SINGLE + -HOOD]

**sin-gle-hung** (sing'gəl hung'), *adj.* (of a window) having two sashes, only one of which is movable. [1815-25]

**sin-gle-knit** (sing'gəl nit'), *n.* 1. a fabric made on warp knit. 2. a garment made of single-knit.

**sin-gle knot**. See *overhand knot*. [1925-30]

**sin-gle-lens re-flex cam-era** (sing'gəl lenz'). See *under reflex camera*. *Abb.*: SLR Also called *sin-gle-lens re-flex*.

**sin-gle man**, *Checkers.* an individual checker restricted to forward moves, as contrasted with a king.

**sin-gle-mind-ed** (sing'gəl min'did), *adj.* 1. having or showing a single aim or purpose: a *single-minded* program. 2. dedicated; resolute; steadfast: He was *single-minded* in his concern for truth. [1870-80] —*sin-gle-mind-ed-ly*, *adv.* —*sin-gle-mind-ed-ness*, *n.* —*Syn.* 2. determined, persevering, inflexible, firm.

**sin-gle mod'al**, *Transp.* modal (def. 3).

**sin-gle-name pa-per** (sing'gəl nām'), *Banking.* commercial paper bearing only the signature of the maker.

**sin-gle-ness** (sing'gəl nis), *n.* the state or quality of being single. [1520-30; SINGLE + -NESS]

**sin-gle oc-cu-pancy**, a type of travel accommodation, as at a hotel, for one person in a room. Cf. **double occupancy**. —*sin-gle-oc-cu-pan-cy*, *adj.*

**sin-gle-phase** (sing'gəl fāz'), *adj.* *Elect.* noting or pertaining to a circuit having an alternating current with one phase or with phases differing by 180°. [1895-1900]

**sin-gle point/ moor'ing**, *Naut.* monobuoy. [1975-80]

**sin-gle pre-ci-sion**, *Computers.* using one word rather than two or more to represent a number. Cf. **double precision**.

**sin-gle pre-mium**, a single payment that covers the entire cost of an insurance policy. [1875-80]

**sin-gle quotes**, (one pair of single quotation marks, written as " ") and used esp. for a quotation within another quotation: He said, "I told you to say 'Open, sesame' when you want to enter the mountain."

**sin-gle rhyme**, a rhyme of monosyllables, as in heart, part.

**sin-gles bar**, a bar or tavern catering to a clientele composed chiefly of single men and women, esp. those seeking a lover or spouse. Also called *dating bar*. [1965-70]

**sin-gle sculls**, a race for sculls each rowed by one oarsman using a pair of oars. Cf. **double sculls**.

**sin-gle-sex** (sing'gəl seks'), *adj.* designated for, pertaining to, or serving only males or only females: a *single-sex* college. [1935-40]

**sin-gle-shot** (sing'gəl shot'), *adj.* (of a firearm) requiring loading before each shot; not having or using a cartridge magazine. [1885-90, Amer.]

**sin-gle-space** (sing'gəl spās'), *v.* -spaced, -spac-ing. —*u.t.* 1. to type (copy) on each line space. —*u.i.* 2. to type copy leaving no blank spaces between lines. [1935-40]

**sin-gle Span-ish bur-ton**, a tackle having a runner as well as the fall supporting the load, giving a mechanical advantage of three, neglecting friction. See *diag. under tackle*.

**sin-gle stand'ard**, 1. a single set of principles or rules applying to everyone, as a single moral code applying to both men and women, esp. in sexual behavior. Cf. **double standard**. 2. monometallism. [1880-85, Amer.]

**sin-gle-stick** (sing'gəl stik'), *n.* 1. a short, heavy stick. 2. (formerly) a. a wooden stick held in one hand, used instead of a sword in fencing. b. fencing with such a stick. [1765-75; SINGLE + STICK]

**sin-gle-stick-er** (sing'gəl stik'er), *n.* *Informal.* a vessel, esp. a sloop or cutter, having one mast. [1885-90; SINGLE + STICK + -ER]

**sin-gle-suit-er** (sing'gəl sū'tar), *n.* one-suit-er. [*sin-gle suit* + -ER]

**sin-glet** (sing'glet), *n.* 1. a sleeveless athletic jersey, esp. a loose-fitting top worn by runners, joggers, etc. 2. a single unit, an unpaired or separate item. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* a man's undershirt or jersey. [1740-50; SINGLE + -ET]

**sin-gle tape**. See *under magnetic tape*.

**sin-gle tax**, *Econ.* a tax, as on land, that constitutes the sole source of public revenue. [1875-80, Amer.] —*sin-gle-tax*, *adj.*

**sin-gle tick-et**, *Brit.* a one-way ticket.

**sin-gle-ton** (sing'gəl tən), *n.* 1. a person or thing occurring singly, esp. an individual set apart from others: a research program involving twins and singletons. 2. *Cards.* a card that is the only one of a suit in a hand. 3. *Math.* a set consisting of one given element. [1875-80; SINGLE + -TON]

**sin-gle-track** (sing'gəl trak'), *adj.* 1. (of a railroad or

section of a railroad's route) having but one set of tracks, so that trains going in opposite directions must be scheduled to meet only at points where there are sidings. 2. having a narrow scope; one-track: He has a *single-track* mind. [1825-35, Amer.]

**sin-gle-tree** (sing'gəl trē'), *n.* whiffletree. [1835-45, Amer.; var. of SWINGLETREE]

**sin-gle-valued** (sing'gəl val'yūd), *adj.* *Math.* (of a function) having the property that each element in the domain has corresponding to it exactly one element in the range. Cf. **many-valued**. [1875-80]

**sin-gle whip**. See *under whip* (def. 27).

**sin-gle wick-et**, a rare form of cricket in which only one wicket is used. [1730-40]

**sin-gle wing/back formation**, *Football.* an offensive formation in which the wingback lines up outside of and about one yard behind an end, the quarter-back lines up lateral to the wingback but about midway between the same end and the center, the fullback is three or four yards behind the middle of the line, and the tailback lines up one yard behind the fullback on the other side of the line from the wingback and quarter-back. Also called *sin-gle wing*. Cf. **double wingback formation**. [1905-10, Amer.]

**sin-gly** (sing'glē), *adv.* 1. apart from others; separately. 2. one at a time; as single units. 3. single-handed; alone. [1250-1300; ME *senglely*. See **SINGLE**, -LY]

**Sing Sing** (sing' sing'), 1. the state prison at Ossining, New York. 2. former name of Ossining.

**sing-song** (sing'sōng', -song'), *n.* 1. verse, or a piece of verse, that is monotonously jingly in rhythm and pattern of pitch. 2. monotonous rhythmical cadence, tone, or sound. 3. *Brit.* an unrehearsed singing of well-known songs by an audience or other informal, untrained group; a community sing. —*adj.* 4. monotonous in rhythm and in pitch. [1600-10; SING + SONG]

**sin-g-spiel** (sing'spēl'; Ger. zing'shpēl'), *n.* a German opera, esp. of the 18th century, using spoken dialogue and resembling ballad opera. [1880-85; < G, equiv. to *sing(en)* to SING + *Spiel* play]

**sin-gu-lar** (sing'gya-lar), *adj.* 1. extraordinary; remarkable; exceptional: a *singular* success. 2. unusual or strange; odd; different: *singular* behavior. 3. being the only one of its kind; distinctive; unique: a *singular* example. 4. separate; individual. 5. *Gram.* noting or pertaining to a member of the category of number found in many languages that indicates that a word form has one referent or denotes one person, place, thing, or instance, as *English boy* and *thing*, which are singular nouns, or goes, a singular form of the verb *go*. Cf. **dual** (def. 4), **plural** (def. 4). 6. *Logic.* a. of or pertaining to something individual, specific, or not general, b. (of a proposition) containing no quantifiers, as "Socrates was mortal." 7. *Math.* a. of or pertaining to a linear transformation from a vector space to itself that is not one-to-one. b. of or pertaining to a matrix having a determinant equal to zero. 8. *Obs.* private. 9. *Obs.* single. —*n.* *Gram.* 10. the singular number. 11. a form in the singular. [1300-50; ME < L *singulāris*. See **SINGLE**, -AR'] —*sin-gu-lar-ly*, *adv.* —*sin-gu-lar-ness*, *n.* —*Syn.* 1-4. peculiar. 2. bizarre, queer, curious. 3. uncommon, rare. 4. single. —*Ant.* 1. usual.

**sin-gu-lar-i-ty** (sing'gya-lar'i-tē), *n.*, *pl.* -ties for 2-4. 1. the state, fact, or quality of being singular. 2. a singular, unusual, or unique quality; peculiarity. 3. *Math.* See *singular point*. 4. *Astron.* (in general relativity) the mathematical representation of a black hole. [1300-50; ME *singularite* < LL *singulāritās*. See **SINGULAR**, -ITY]

**sin-gu-lar-ize** (sing'gya-lar-iz'), *v.t.* -ized, -iz-ing. to make singular. Also, esp. *Brit.*, *sin-gu-lar-ise*. [1580-90; SINGULAR + -IZE] —*sin-gu-lar-iz-a-tion*, *n.*

**sin-gu-lar point**, *Math.* a point at which a given function of a complex variable has no derivative but of which every neighborhood contains points at which the function has derivatives. Also called *singularity*. [1885-90]

**sin-gul-tus** (sing'gul'tes), *n.*, *pl.* -tus-es. *Med.* a hiccup. Also, *sin-gul-ta-tion* (sing'gul'tā'shən). [1745-55; < L *sob*, dying breath, hiccup] —*sin-gul-tous*, *adj.*

**sinh** (sinch), *n.* *Math.* hyperbolic sine. [SIN(e) + HYPERBOLIC]

**Sin-hai-lien** (Chin. shin'hi'lyun'), *n.* *Older Spelling.* Xinhailian.

**Sin-ha-lesé** (sin'ha lēz', -lēz'), *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -lesé for 2. —*adj.* 1. of or pertaining to Sri Lanka, its native people, or their language. —*n.* 2. a member of the Sinhalese people. 3. an Indic language that is the language of the majority of the population of Sri Lanka, including Colombo. Also, *Sinhalese*.

**Sin-i-clism** (sin'ə siz'əm), *n.* something characteristic of or peculiar to the Chinese; a Chinese method, custom, or usage. [1890-95; *Sinic* Chinese (< ML *Sinicus* < MGk *Sinikos*, equiv. to LGk *Sin(ai)* the Chinese + -ikos -ic) + -ISM; see **SINO-**]

**Sin-i-clze** (sin'ə siz'), *v.t.* -clized, -cliz-ing. to make Chinese in character or bring under Chinese influence. Also, esp. *Brit.*, *Sin-i-clise*. [1885-90; *Sinic* (see **SINICISM**) + -IZE] —*Sin-i-cliz-a-tion* (sin'ə sē zā'shən), *n.*

**Sin-i-fy** (sin'ə fi'), *v.t.* -fied, -fy-ing. to Sinicize. [1895-1900; < LL *Sin(ae)* the Chinese (see **SINO-**) + -IFY] —*Sin-i-fi-ca-tion* (sin'ə fi kā'shən), *n.*

**sin-i-grin** (sin'i grin), *n.* *Chem.* a colorless, crystalline, water-soluble solid, K<sub>2</sub>C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, found chiefly in the seeds of the black mustard, that deters some insect predators. Also called *potassium myronate*. [1875-80;

CONCISE pronunciation KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pārt; set, equal; if, ice; ox, über, order, oil, bōok, bōat, up; ūge, child; sing, shoe; thin, that; zh as in treasure, ū = o as in alone, e as in system, as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; \* as in fire (fīr'), hour (ōur'). l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.